

REA Committee on the Religious Education in Public Life and Global Committee

Protocol for Public Statements of the REA - passed at Feb 23, 2021 board meeting

****Orange writing denotes changes from 2024 Board**

What is a public statement of the REA?

- We define a statement of the REA as many things but, most importantly, praxis-oriented.
- A statement can include, but it is not limited to the written word. A statement should primarily include a commitment by the REA to engaging the issue at hand. This can occur through direct engagement in open discussion, education, and the collective sharing of resources to support members and their communities.
- A pedagogically creative statement provides space for multiple voices and views on a presenting issue. Therefore, creative engagement should be considered the primary modality in tandem with or over written statements.
- Any statement, including written and direct action, should keep in mind and include the global and interreligious membership of the REA.

How Board statements are initiated

- **Members may make written requests for an organizational statement to the Board via the Steering Committee and staff.**
- **When members advance a request for the Board via the steering committee and staff to make a statement (via action, or written statement), the Board will deliberate on whether a statement can be made.**
- **Board members may also initiate requests for statements..**

What necessitates a public statement from the REA Board?

- An event of global magnitude that directly impacts the communities and lives of the majority of our membership, such as support for a collective movement for human and civil rights, a tragedy, or crisis. In the past, statements have included REA's support of the Black Lives Matter movement, Solidarity against Anti-Asian violence.
- Statements may also address REA specific events that impact the lives of REA's membership and member's communities, that cannot otherwise be addressed via a Presidential letter or the written communication specific to an REA standing committee or other individual member.
- In the case of an REA specific event that necessitates a letter, the first step of the protocol should be to direct the writing of such a letter out of the office of the President of REA.

What should a written and other public statements of the REA Board include?

- Any written public statement by the REA should be brief and to the point.
- A written statement is one tool in our toolkit for engaging members of the REA. Any statement produced by the REA should also be accompanied by other efforts to engage

the community from other standing committees(within their realm of responsibility) and members of the Board.

- Any form of a public statement should carefully and clearly acknowledge any precipitating event(s) germane to the reason for the public statement.
- Any form of a public statement should include a call for public action and provide any available resources to help religious educators to act on the statement's premise.
- Any form of a public statement should clearly define the REA's stance on any event or incident such as support for a movement for human and civil rights or a community affected by a crisis or tragedy.

How should a public statement of any kind move forward?

- The Executive Secretary, President, and Vice President shall determine whether the event or incident at hand meets the criteria which necessitates a written public statement by the REA or if there are other, more suitable options in the larger scope of a public statement for member and public engagement.
- If there are suitable options other than a stand-alone written public statement, such as large group facilitated conversation, small group facilitated conversations, public round table discussion, or the curation and sharing of supplemental resources for religious educators, the Executive Secretary, President, and Vice President shall work with the different standing committees to engage REA membership on the topic and issues at hand.
- The Committee on RE in Public Life and Global Community and other relevant standing committees may also bring matters requiring a statement of multiple kinds to the attention of the Board.

Who should draft a written public statement of the REA?

- If the event or incident requires a written public statement, the Executive Secretary, President, and Vice President shall then determine whether the event or incident requires a letter drafted and written by the President of REA or whether the event or incident requires a letter drafted on behalf of the entire Board of REA by the Committee on RE in Public Life and Global Community, to then be shared with the Board.
- Should it be determined that a written public statement should be drafted by the Committee on RE in Public Life and Global Community, the Committee shall be given ample time to gather and work together to draft and submit a public statement to the Board for edits and approval.
- Upon receiving a draft of the written public statement, all members of the REA Board shall endeavor to work together to edit and approve the outgoing document whether by email or other correspondence, in a timely manner.
- The Committee on RE in Public Life and Global Community shall only draft and submit for approval to the Board, written public statements issued from the entire Board and not from any individual member of the Board, including from the desk of the President.

Who should sign and/or participate in a public statement of the REA?

- A written public statement of the REA requires the consensus and signatures of all REA Board members.
- A written public statement that does not have the consensus of the entire Board cannot be released as a public statement of the REA.
- A statement that is a direct action (i.e. creative pedagogical methods including direct engagement in discussion, education, and the collective sharing of resources) does not need signature approval of the entire Board but requires the approval and fulsome participation of the Executive Secretary, President, Vice President, and key board members.

Who should receive a public statement of the REA?

- A public statement of the REA should go first to the REA membership via all appropriate channels of communication including social media platforms. It may also be shared by REA membership and the REA Board with partner organizations and other related communities and individuals.